

What is claimed is:

1. An electric toothbrush comprising a housing formed from a first material and including a handle, a brush head, and a neck extending between said handle and said brush head, characterized in that said housing further includes a first gripping member disposed along an exterior region of said housing, said first gripping member formed from a second material softer than said first material, said first gripping member having a first recessed region, and a second gripping member formed from said second material, said second gripping member defining a second recessed region.

2. The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said housing of said toothbrush defines a longitudinal axis, and said first and said second gripping members are symmetrically disposed on said housing with respect to said longitudinal axis.

3. The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said first gripping member has a length of from about 25 mm to about 65 mm, and a width of from about 12 mm to about 25 mm.

4. The electric toothbrush of claim 3 wherein said first recessed region has a length of from about 25 mm to about 38 mm, a width of from about 9 mm to about 15 mm, and a depth of from about 3 mm to about 10 mm.

5. The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said second material has a Shore A hardness between about 30 and about 99.

6. The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second gripping members is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of elastomers and rubber-based materials.

7. The electric toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said housing further includes a third gripping member disposed along an exterior region of said

housing between said first and second gripping members.

8. The electric toothbrush of claim 7 wherein said third gripping member has a positionable actuator disposed therein for controlling operation of said toothbrush.

9. The electric toothbrush of claim 7 wherein said third gripping member is formed from a material having a Shore A hardness between about 30 and about 99.